

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03454 01 OF 02 121106Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /104 W
-----080930 121110Z /10

P 111655Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1086
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 3454

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SOCI, TS, EGEN
SUBJ: FURTHER INFORMATION ON TUNISIAN COMPULSORY LABOR CORPS
(SERVICE CIVIL) SCHEME

REF: TUNIS A-031

1. POLITICAL OFFICER DISCUSSED TUNISIAN LABOR CORPS
(SERVICE CIVIL) SCHEME AT LENGTH MAY 10 WITH NOUREDDINE
KTARI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND NUMBER TWO IN
MINISTRY. KTARI IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR EXECUTION OF SERVICE CIVIL PROGRAM APPROVED BY
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 8. FOLLOWING IS RESUME OF
KTARI'S REMARKS ON SERVICE CIVIL OBJECTIVES, ITS MODE OF
OPERATIONS AND ITS COMPULSORY ASPECTS.

2. BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES
GOT HAS CONSIDERED SOOETHING ALONG THE LINES OF PRESENT
SCHEME FOR SOMETIME IN VIEW OF INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT
PROBLEMS AMONG TUNISIAN YOUTH AND THEIR TENDENCY TO DRIFT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 03454 01 OF 02 121106Z

TOWARDS MAJOR URBAN CENTERS WITH LITTLE PREPARATION FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE
COUNTRY. MANY OF THESE YOUNG MEN COULD FIND JOBS IN
AGRICULTURE OR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BUT THEY HAVE BEEN
CONDITIONED OVER NUMBER OF YEARS TO REJECT THESE
HONORABLE OCCUPATIONS AS BEING BENEATH THEM. MOST OF THEM
WANT AN EASY OFFICE JOB EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NONE OF

THE SKILLS REQUIRED. AT THE SAME TIME THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY NEEDS MORE MANPOWER IN VITAL BASIC INDUSTRIES. OBJECTIVE OF SERVICE CIVIL IS TO EDUCATE THESE YOUNG MEN AS TO SATISFACTION WHICH CAN BE DRAWN FROM PRODUCTIVE PHYSICAL LABOR AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE TRAINING AND THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THEIR USEFUL EMPLOYMENT IN THESE FIELDS. SPECIFICALLY THIS INCLUDES AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION, FORESTATION, IRRIGATION, ETC. AS MANY OF THESE PROJECTS ARE LOCATED IN THE ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED INTERIOR, THE RELOCATION OF SOME OF THE CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TO THE COUNTRYSIDE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS REDUCE SOCIAL PROBLEMS NOW BEING EXPERIENCED IN TUNIS AND OTHER URBAN CENTERS.

3. OPERATIONS.

SERVICE CIVIL IS BEGINNING THIS WEEK IN FIRST PILOT PROJECT LOCATED NEAR BEJA. IT WILL INVOLVE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 YOUNG MEN WHO WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH REMOVAL OF VILLAGE FROM SITE TO BE FLOODED IN SIDI SALEM DAM PROJECT TO HIGHER GROUND NEARBY. BY 1979 A NUMBER OF THESE SERVICE CIVIL SITES WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT TUNISIA, WITH APPROXIMATELY 5,000 PARTICIPANTS. TOURS WILL BE FOR TERMS OF ONE YEAR AND SYSTEM WILL BE ORGANIZED SO THAT THERE WILL BE A "REVOLVING FLOW" OF PARTICIPANTS. EMPHASIS WILL BE ON HAVING PARTICIPANTS LEARN NEEDED SKILLS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 03454 01 OF 02 121106Z

WHILE WORKING ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ENVISAGED IN FIFTH PLAN. FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF YEAR'S WORK, TRAINEES WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BY MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS EMPLOYMENT OFFICE IN OBTAINING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT IN AREAS OF ACQUIRED SKILLS. WORK CAMPS SIMILAR TO THOSE FOUND AT ANY LARGE CONSTRUCTION SITE WILL BE SET UP TO ACCOMMODATE TRAINEES. TRAINEES WILL BE PAID AT ESTABLISHED MINIMUM WAGE RATES ALTHOUGH DEDUCTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR COST OF FOOD AND LODGING. KTARI WAS UNSURE HOW MUCH DAILY PER CAPITA COST WOULD BE BUT HE SAID THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD TRAINEES BE ALLOWED TO CLEAR MORE THAN OTHER TUNISIAN YOUTHS SERVING WITH MILITARY. FINANCING OF SERVICE CIVIL SCHEM IS NOT A PROBLEM AS FUNDS TO COVER LABOR AND RELATED COSTS ARE ALREADY ALLOCATED IN MINISTRY FOR EQUIPMENT BUDGET FOR VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03454 02 OF 02 120707Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /104 W
-----078770 120824Z /10

R 111655Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 3454

4. "RECRUITMENT PROGRAM"
POLITICAL OFFICER NOTED THAT HE HAD HEARD NUMEROUS STORIES
OF POLICE ROUND-UPS IN TUNIS SUBURBS WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS.
KTARI CONFIRMED THAT "RECRUITMENT PROGRAM" WAS ALREADY
UNDER WAY. IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY POLICE OFFICIALS
UNDER MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DIRECTION. ACCORDING TO
KTARI, POLICE ARE VISITING HABITUAL HANGOUTS OF THE
UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND THEY ARE STOPPING ANYONE WHO DOES
NOT APPEAR TO BE EITHER REGULARLY EMPLOYED OR ATTENDING
SCHOOL. ANYONE WHO CANNOT CONVINCE THE INVESTIGATING
POLICE OFFICER OF HIS OCCUPATIONAL OR STUDENT STATUS IS
TAKEN TO ONE OF SEVERAL SCREENING CAMPS WHICH HAVE BEEN
SET UP AT MILITARY POSTS. IF THE YOUTH'S WORK, SCHOOL,
OR FAMILY SITUATION DOES NOT JUSTIFY HIS RELEASE, CASE IS
THEN PRESENTED TO A REGIONAL COMMISSION HEADED BY THE LOCAL
GOVERNOR. INDIVIDUALS ARE FREE TO PLEAD THEIR CASE
REQUESTING DEFERMENT BUT THE COMMISSION'S JUDGMENT IS
FINAL AND BINDING. LISTS OF INDUCTEES ARE DRAWN UP IN
THESE COMMISSIONS, DEPENDING ON MANPOWER NEEDS AND TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES EXISTING AT THE MOMENT. PARTICIPATION FOR
THOSE SELECTED WILL BE OBLIGATORY. DESERTERS WILL BE
PUNISHED. THIS INDUCTION PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 03454 02 OF 02 120707Z

IN ORDER NOT TO ALARM THE POPULATION. IT IS HOPED THAT
AFTER A WHILE THE PUBLIC WILL REALIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE
BENEFITS WHICH CAN ACCRUE FROM THE SERVICE CIVIL PROGRAM.
IT IS ALSO OPEN TO VOLUNTEERS. POLOFF ASKED KTARI HOW
MANY VOLUNTEERS HAD PRESENTED THEMSELVES TO DATE. KTARI

REPLIED "NONE".

5. ILO ROLE.

IN VIEW OF SOCIAL MOTIVATION BEHIND SERVICE CIVIL PROGRAM,
TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HOPES ILO WILL LEND FULL SUPPORT.
THIS INCLUDES SOME SORT OF ILO SPONSORSHIP AS WELL AS
DIRECT FINANCING.

6. POLOFF REMARKS.

POLOFF AGREED THAT TUNISIA OBVIOUSLY HAD A PROBLEM WITH
ITS UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND THAT THIS IS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
AS WELL AS ECONOMIC. HE AGREED FURTHER THAT ACHIEVEMENT
OF SERVICE CIVIL PROGRAM OBJECTIVES COULD CONTRIBUTE TO
SOLUTION OF SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS BUT THAT
"FORCED LABOR" ASPECT OF SCHEME WAS LEGITIMATE CAUSE FOR
CONCERN ON THE PART OF MANY OF TUNISIA'S FRIENDS. IN
ADDITION, WESTERN PRESS WOULD CERTAINLY FOCUS ATTENTION ON
METHODS OF RECRUITMENT AND OBLIGATORY WORK FEATURE. KTARI
REPLIED HIS OFFICE WAS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND WAS
PREPARING AN INFORMATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM.
POLOFF COMMENTED THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A VERY GOOD PROGRAM
INDEED TO ALLAY INCREASINGLY APPARENT CONCERN INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE OF TUNISIA.

7. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE GIVEN LITTLE ATTENTION
TO SERVICE CIVIL PROJECT IN RECENT WEEKS, AND NO MENTION
HAS BEEN MADE OF CURRENT RECRUITING PRACTICES. TODAY'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 03454 02 OF 02 120707Z

EDITION OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WEEKLY ER RAI CARRIED BRIEF
AND HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLE ON GOVERNMENT'S HEAVY-HANDED
ROUND UP TACTICS.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCED LABOR, YOUTH, GOVERNMENT REFORM, UNEMPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, LABOR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS03454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0836, D780201-0969
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780567/aaaacezf.tel
Line Count: 208
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4ef16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TUNIS A-31
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2714543
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER INFORMATION ON TUNISIAN COMPULSORY LABOR CORPS (SERVICE CIVIL) SCHEME
TAGS: ELAB, SOCI, EGEN, TS, US, (KTARI, NOUREDDINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4ef16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014